

**EVACUEE****NEWSLETTER**

Number 6

Naval Air Station Meridian

September 6, 2005

**Bataan Continues Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts**

By JOSN Joanne de Vera

Aboard USS Bataan, Gulf of Mexico(NNS)—The multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) completed its seventh day of relief efforts in the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast region Sept. 5.

Four MH-53 Sae Dragon helicopters from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 15, based out of Corpus Christi, Texas, five MH-60 Seahawks from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 28, based out of Norfolk, Va., and Bataan's air department have conducted flight operations almost around the clock to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

"We've been extremely busy this past week with more tasks than there are hours in a day," said Cmdr. Jeffrey Bocchicchio, Bataan's air boss. "The shortest day the department had was 16 hours long, but they understand that everything we do is critical to the mission."

"All of the divisions and Combat Cargo working together allows the ship to have a 24-hour flight deck with the manning for 10-hour days," said Bocchicchio.

To date, the two squadrons have transported 1,613 displaced people and delivered more than 100,000 pounds of cargo.

Bataan also provided 8,000 gallons of fresh drinking water to the ravished Gulfport, Miss. area. Sailors filled eight 500-gallon water bladders with the ship's potable water and HM-15's MH-53 helicopters transported them from the Bataan to shore.

The ship also demonstrated its sea power when a landing craft from Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 2, based out of Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va., traveled up the Mississippi River to conduct a survey of the river just days after the hurricane ripped through the area. The LCU was gone for three days before returning to the ship's welldeck.

"Besides looking for navigational aids, our secondary mission was to help evacuate people and help the first responders, such as the Coast Guardsmen and police," said Chief Warrant Officer William Fish, ACU department officer in charge.

With all of the injured and ill evacuees strewn throughout the Gulf Coast, medical

personnel are in short supply. A team of 84 medical professionals from the Navy's Casualty Receiving and Treatment Ship Team(CRTS) 8, based out of Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla., embarked Bataan Sept. 2 to assist in hurricane relief medical operations. Sept. 3-4, 56 members of CRTS 8 left Bataan to provide medical support to Hurricane Katrina survivors at the New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans International Airport and Biloxi High School in Mississippi.

In coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other agencies, Navy and Marine Corps assets are continuing to provide assistance to displaced persons, medical aid for affected people, mobility and logistics support, as well as assistance in restoring other critical infrastructure and civil services.

Additionally, in light of communications difficulties created by Hurricane Katrina, the Navy has established a 24-hour help line for Sailors and their family members to call for information. The phone number is (877)-414-5358. The line is staffed by volunteers with connectivity to FEMA and other government agencies.

**Military Relief Hotlines**

**Military One Support Number (All services) 1-800-342-9647**

**U.S. Marines**

**1-800-847-1597**

**U.S. Army**

**1-800-626-3317**

**National Guard**

**1-888-777-7731**

**U.S. Air Force/Keesler AFB**

**1-800-435-9941**

**U.S. Navy**

**1-877-414-5358**

**DFAS Customer Contact Center**

**1-888-332-7411**

**Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency**

**Service Center 1-877-272-7337**

# Notes of interest for Hurricane evacuees

## Branch Medical Clinic Meridian

The clinic is closed on weekends and holidays. We do have a duty crew who can take your calls for emergencies at 601-679-2638.

## School uniform donations requested

Registration for children evacuated from the coast is planned for sometime next week. With school children in the local area now wearing uniforms to school, a need exists for uniform clothing for the children. Items requested are: khaki or navy blue pants; red, white and blue polo shirts. School uniform donations can be taken to the Fleet and Family Support Center.

## Evacuees with friends in Navy Family Housing

All evacuees who are staying in Navy Family Housing with friends or family who have not registered with the co-located Housing and Evacuation Offices should go to the Housing Office and do so.

## What about school for the children?

School registration for evacuated children is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Sept 8 from 9am-12pm. Call FFSC at 601-679-2360

## Can I get a job while I'm here?

Temporary employment opportunities may be available if you are interested in working while you are here. Please check with the Fleet and Family Service Center for job information.

## Can I volunteer to help while I'm here

The American Red Cross needs helpers for various tasks in several locations. Please call 601-485-5151.

## Donations needed by Red Cross and Others

Donations of food, drinks, diapers, formula, and personal hygiene items should go to Frank Cochran Center.

## How do I register for WIC?

You can contact the WIC office at 601-693-2451. It is located at 5224 Valley Street behind the Mississippi Highway Patrol Office on Highway 19N in the College Park area.

You also can contact the Greater Meridian Health Clinic at 601-693-0118. It is located at 2701 Davis St., which is near St. Patrick's Church.

## Navy College

If you are unable to attend classes because of command obligations or a lack of internet access, contact Navy College. All on-base classes will be moved off base. Call 601-679-2671 or your local college for more info. MCC students begin night classes immediately. Contact Pam Peden 601-679-2450. EMCC classes will be held at Northeast Lauderdale High School at regular times. Call Loretta Boswell 601-679-3570.

## Housing Residents

Please pile all yard debris at the curb for pickup. Do not place vinyl siding at curb. Notify Housing Maintenance for pickup. If you see a snake call Security at ext.2958 For maintenance emergencies call 601-938-7701. Regular calls dial 601-679-7001.

## Military Family Locator Service

This service will be used to track and assist in locating affected families. Call 888-777-7731 or go to [www.militaryfamilylocator.org](http://www.militaryfamilylocator.org) You will need the individual's last name last four digits of their SSN.

## Prayer Luncheon

Wednesday prayer luncheon has been opened to all faiths as

a time designated to prayer reflection and fellowship. Call NAS Chapel at ext.3635 for details.

## EMEPA Progress

Crews from across the U.S. have been arriving daily to assist with power restoration. EMEPA estimates the remaining outage to last two or more weeks.

## Sunday Church Services at NAS Community Chapel

Protestant Sunday School: 9 a.m.

Protestant Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass: 5 p.m.

## NAS Community Chapel Weekday Activities

Wednesday Prayer Luncheon: 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

LDS Family Evening: 6 p.m.

## Various Hours of Operation for on-base facilities

NEX: M-F, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun, 12:30-5 p.m.

Gas Station: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily -- no after hours sales

Country Store: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

Commissary: Sept. 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tues-Sat, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

NFCU: Sept. 3-5, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; M-F, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Citizen's Natl Bank: M-Th, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The office is up and running in Bldg. 266, next door to the Fleet and Family Support Center. Hours of operation are Mon, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tue-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Services can be provided for active duty and retired Navy personnel and their families, and for all service personnel and their families. Services for reservists with less than 30 days active duty are authorized until Thursday. If you would like to make a donation to NMCRS to support the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, go to [www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org) and click on the Hurricane Katrina link.

## Pharmacies

Winn Dixie: Closest to the base, 12 miles south of base along Hwy 39 on SE corner of Hwy 39 and North Hills Street (first light when traveling south on Hwy 39) -- on left when heading south. Open M-F, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Phone: 601-485-0818

Mr. Discount Pharmacy: Next the hospitals in downtown Meridian. Go south on Hwy 39 and as road forks, stay to the right and veer right as road forks again onto 14th St. Pharmacy is on left, across from Jeff Anderson Medical Center. Open every day from 8 a.m. until midnight. Phone: 601-693-1979

## Hospitals

All three hospitals are with one to two block of each other in downtown Meridian -- travel south on Hwy 39 and as the highway moves back into the city, it will fork at one point and you will veer to the right fork. In approximately six blocks it will fork again, and you will veer off to the right and take a right onto 14th St. Anderson is on the right and Rush on the left. Riley is behind Rush on Constitution Ave. and 12th St. Phone: Anderson, 601-553-6111; Riley, 601-484-3357; Rush, 601-703-9260

## TRICARE Authorization Number

1-800-444-5445. If you have an emergency and need to be seen at an ER, you will need to contact your PCM after you return home to have a consult placed for authorization of that visit. Only your PCM can place those consults for you.

## Federal Disaster Aid available for those suffering losses in designated areas

### Designated Areas

**Alabama:** Baldwin, Mobile and Washington Counties

**Louisiana:** Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Palquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes

**Mississippi:** Amite, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Stone, Walthall and Wilkinson Counties

Call FEMA to apply for assistance at 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585 for the hearing impaired.

These numbers are for people in the designated federal disaster areas only.

Be prepared to give your Social Security number, describe your losses, provide

financial information, and give directions to the damaged property.

If you get a busy signal, try to call after 6 p.m. or on the weekend.

The information provided gets you in the system. An inspector will schedule an appointment and visit the property. You should be there. A housing assistance check will arrive in 7-10 days, if you are eligible. There may be an SBA application enclosed. You MUST fill out and return to be eligible for any further assistance.

## The Daily Coastie News

*Coastie News is provided by the coasties for the coasties*

**Donations:** Food, clothing, toys and diapers are coming to the Family Support Center. Contact 601-679-2358/2360. Or contact Gail Meyers at 601-679-4090.

**Coast Guard Housing Support:** contact Gloria Cokel at 601-879-5551 or 604-483-3988. Also contact Cindy Vasquez at 601-679-9728.

**Credit Union:** The Navy Federal Credit Union is open from 0900-1400. For all pay, travel and evacuation questions call the "People Cell" at 314-539-3900 EXT. 2337, 2338, 2340.

**Legal:** Legal assistance is available for setting

up wills and powers of attorney at the CBQ.

**Belle Chase Academy:** The Business Manager of BCA needs to contact MKCS Myers at 601-679-2530.

1. The Navy Relief Society has authority for evacuees that have lost household goods on a case by case basis. Contact Kelli Dickman at 601-679-2504.

2. BellSouth 1-888-757-6500

3. Galaxy Cablevision 1-800-365-6988

4. Personnel in housing:

Your address is:

Your name

Your house number and street

Meridian, MS 39305

5. Coast Guard Active Duty members needing uniforms contact the Evac Center for sign up for free uniform issue. Fax will go off at 1200 on 07SEP05.

6. UDC phone number is 1-800-874-6841

Have sizes ready and state you have lost all your uniforms in New Orleans.

7. Coast Guard Ombudsman is Gail Myers at 809 Hull Street. Contact 504-957-1642

8. Dependents are reminded to check with medical to change your Primary Care Manager.

**The Hurricane Katrina Help Line Telephone number is 1-757-889-6440 and will be manned 24/7 until further notice. Please refer all requests for evacuation orders, evacuation allowance payments, advance pay(military only), and EFT special payments(military only) to the PSD Afloat Hurricane Katrina Help Line**

**Navy 24-hour help line for family info & muster 1-877-414-5358**

**Family info or for help, call Red Cross 1-866-GET-INFO**